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U. S. Department of Agriculture

*Russell Gardens*

NINE SOLID ACRES HEMEROCALLIS

*Spring, Texas*

## GENERAL LIST - BARGAIN LIST - NEW INTRODUCTIONS

Never have we offered Daylilies priced so low; but never have we grown so many - and we aim to sell them. The quality of our plants, is surpassed by no one, and it is known that Daylilies grown on the Gulf Coast have a quicker "pick-up" when transplanted, their fine root system enables them to stand the heat of South America or the cold rigor of Canada. We have hundreds of letters from our clients to prove this; don't be mislead into believing Daylilies grown here won't thrive as far north as Canada.

The supply of catalogues for this season has been exhausted and until our new ones are issued we are giving you this mimeographed list, but we will never have any finer plants to offer for a long time than we have now. The twelve new varieties offered here on Page 3 will not appear at all in our 1944 catalogue, due to the limited stock.

We are offering this season twelve Daylilies in new colors never before offered in REDS, ROSE, PURPLES AND UNUSUAL BICOLORS, and because we refused to release them until we had grown a goodly number of each variety, we can now offer them at a price every one can afford. See Page 3 for further details. We pay delivery charges on all orders amounting to three dollars or more; otherwise please add twenty-five cents for postage, etc. Our plants come to you properly labeled and well packed. We never substitute without your permission.

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## - BARGAIN PRICES -

(in unnamed)

RED, ROSE, PURPLE AND BICOLORS

For those of you who want real beauty in unusual colors and care nothing for names, we have in our field a block of Daylilies in deeper and more intense colorings too numerous to describe. These plants were selected as the best of many crosses and set aside for further observation. In this lot there is not a variety left that might even resemble the old ordinary yellows, oranges or fulvous types. Nothing is left except reds, purples, rose and bicolors in vivid combinations.

These plants are too much like some of the better varieties already on the market that we do not care to release them under a name of their own. Therefore I am offering, for delivery beginning in April, these varieties in mixed groups only, as long as they last, 6 plants for \$3.00, 12 for \$5.00, 25 for \$10.00 or 100 for \$35.00. You will get an even assortment of colors in every order. I will personally see that you get more than your money's worth in these lovely unnamed varieties and all in nice vigorous plants. Place your order now; shipment on these unnamed varieties will not begin until April, but orders received before then will be reserved for you until you wish shipment even if at a later date.

Read the excerpt on other side from one of our leading newspapers that you might know how we stand among flower lovers in our community. We are proud that any such newspaper in a city of almost 500,00 would say we are an asset to the community.

*Plant Hemerocallis Daylilies once and have them always*



# Six-Year-Old Lily Farm at Spring Proves Worth To Houston Area; Many New Varieties Developed

## Mrs. Meysenburg Enthusiastic Over Russell Hybrids

Nearly six years ago there was an article in the Garden Page of The Houston Press telling of the arrival of a hybridizer of hemerocallis, H. M. Russell from South Carolina. The Chamber of Commerce announced that Mr. Russell would start a day-lily farm in Houston, due to the excellence of the soil and climatic conditions of the Houston area. An extensive research and hybridization were planned for the lily farm.

Today, there is a nine-acre lily farm established at Spring, 23 miles from Houston with more than a half million plants.

Many lilies are in full bloom on each clump, with vivid colorings ranging from yellow to orange and many new varieties showing reds to purple. Our two ordinary day lilies, the flava and the fulva, have been used in gardens in this country for more than 100 years and were taken into Europe from the Orient about 300 years ago. Sitting in the corners, these two Cinderellas in their yellow and orange dresses had to be content with blooming only for a day and closing up at night, with only a few variations in their attire. Their Greek botanical name, "Hemerocallis," means "Beauty for a Day," and in the language of flowers, they have been called "Co-

quettes."

The fulva doesn't make seeds, so the flava has been worked overtime in the hybridization with the fulva, and other species furnishing pollen to diversify the colorings. Thirteen other species found in Europe have been used by Mr. Russell to obtain new varieties. Many of the new lilies have been crossed and hybridized for 15 generations and Mr. Russell with his patience and skill has developed lilies which will remain open for the night, have many new colorings, different textures, a larger expanse in the opening of the throat and have been climatized to withstand heat, extreme cold and to defy the floods and heavy rains.

The lily farm was visited after severe rain and the blossom of the well known Hyperion couldn't compare with the new hybrid, Mrs. B. F. Bonner. This new lily, a clear pale yellow color with the size much larger than the Hyperion and the bloom much earlier, held its bloom erect and open after the rain.

### BROWNISH-RED

The Marguerite Palmer, named for the garden editor of The Press, has a bloom with petals fully reflex and four and half inches in diameter in the rounded bloom. This new variety is brownish red in color with a salmon sheen. It is a twice bloomer, appearing in both spring and fall. The Mary Rice Fuller, named for the mother of Mr. Palmer, is a 1943 Russell hybrid, with petals a soft canary yellow with a distinct deep rose colored, giving the softest and most pleasing effect. It blooms in April and May and again in late summer. The Pride of Houston, a Rus-

sell 1942, has a brilliant flower with dark mahogany red petals with almost black eye zone. The sepals are a lighter shade with the throat a deep orange. This variety with its velvety satin sheen defies our hottest sun and blooms in May and June.

Mr. Russell pointed out the following varieties as favorites: Quote Me (the name given by Pat Fleming of the park system when Mr. Russell was describing it in extravagant terms), On Tour, Emily Brown, War Path, Lo, the Wind, Fiesta, Tejas, Ruth Zant, Betty Slick, Painted Lady, Santa Fe, Seven Seas, Joy Russell, Juarez, Old Vintage, Queen of Dallas, Margaret Staughter, Annis Victoria, Russell, Purple Waters and Purple Sage.

### BECOMES ENTHUSIAST

Mrs. R. C. Meysenburg, 5401 Caroline, who has been horticultural advisor for the Southwest region of the Garden Club of America, has become an enthusiast in planting the Russell hybrids and one garden bed is filled with the choicest varieties. She is proud of her "Red Emperor," "so appropriately named," she said, "for the blossoms are very large with reddish

brown colorings."

One clump of the Marguerite Palmer has been in profuse bloom and by its side, the Mary Rice Fuller has been producing blooms. The Santa Fe is one of her favorites and also the Seven Seas, Spit Fire, Sylvia, San Jacinto. Her Purple Sage is a deep wine color, almost purple with the petals ruffled, having a slight yellow mid-rib. The Belle of Georgia is a pale yellow, overcast with color and markings similarly to a ripe peach. The Crystal Fairy is a light salmon pink with medium size blooms.

### COLORINGS VARIED

"There is no reason for any one to tire of the colorings of day lilies," said Mr. Russell, "for they are so varied. Too, they do not usurp the garden for the hybrids do not send out runners and they remain in compact clumps. The division can be left alone from year to year, making larger clumps and producing more blooms each season. With selecting different varieties, day lilies can be in bloom in the garden for four or five months of the year. The varieties also differ in height."

Another interesting feature of the day lilies is their hardiness, flourishing under a varied range of soil and climatic conditions. Wet or dry, acid or lime, sand or clay, sun or shade, they pursue their habits of giving charm to the garden and strange to say, they have no attractions for insects.

When Mr. Russell hybridizes to bring in new varieties, each seed from the flower crossed with other pollen is planted and not one of the many is discarded for it is never known which seed will produce the choice flower. These are marked and watched for several generations. The culls are discarded.

"See that field," said Mr. Russell, "the pigs will be turned in there to feed on the roots. To the casual observer, the lilies seemed to be the best varieties but to Mr. Russell there were faults in them.

"There is a difference for a true variety has life, sheen, color, vigor—it is alive," he said. "These others do not come up to standard and will not be allowed to grow in any one's garden."

Shipments have been made to every state in the Union, Canada and Mexico and the industry has grown until it has become an asset to industrial Houston.

This is an article by the Garden editor of a daily newspaper of Houston, Texas